

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: BERLINER ZEITUNG COVERAGE OF HAVANA MEETING ABOUT PUERTO RICO

REF: (A) BERLIN 6341; (B) BERLIN 6309

1. "BERLINER ZEITUNG" CARRIED IN ITS WEEKEND EDITION OF SEPTEMBER 13 A SHORT ARTICLE ABOUT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED HAVANA CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY FOR PUERTO RICO'S FIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE WAS BURIED IN THE SECOND SECTION OF THE NEWS-PAPER IN A WEEKLY COLUMN CARRYING A ROUND-UP OF NEWS, IT CONTAINED SOME STRONG STATEMENTS.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, EAST GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS SUBJECT HAS CONCENTRATED UPON THE ECONOMIC "EXPLOITATION" OF PUERTO RICO BY AMERICAN FIRMS AND THE USEFULNESS OF THE ISLAND FOR U.S. MILITARY PURPOSES. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT, THE BZ REPORT STATED THAT AMERICAN FIRMS IN SEVERAL INDUSTRIES ARE MAKING PROFITS OF 48 DOLLARS FOR EVERY ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OF INVESTMENT. THE ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT PUERTO RICO IS AN "IMPORTANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY SUPPORT BASE" FOR THE UNITED STATES. IN

ADDITION, THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATES UPON THE POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE PUERTO RICANS AND SAYS THAT LIVING STANDARDS OF ONE HALF OF THE POPULATION ARE BELOW THOSE OF THE POOREST STATE IN THE UNITED STATES, MISSISSIPPI. IT IS ALSO STATES THAT 1-1/2 MILLION OF THE FORMER PUERTO RICAN POPULATION OF 2-1/2 MILLION HAVE IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THEY HAVE "NO RIGHTS AND VEGETATE IN POORLY PAYING OCCUPATIONS".

3. COMMENT: THE BZ ARTICLE USED THE OCCASION OF THE HAVANA MEETING TO AGAIN CRITICIZE THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION OF PUERTO RICO. THE ARTICLE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH THE HAVANA CONFERENCE ITSELF AND ONLY USES IT AS A LEADING LINE TO GET TO ITS CRITICAL COMMENTS. ALTHOUGH BURRIED IN THE BACK OF THE NEWSPAPER, THIS ARTICLE CONTINUES ATTENTION TO PUERTO RICO IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS.COOPER

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